

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A rubber composition for tire treads, which comprises (A) 100 parts by weight of a diene rubber comprising at least 35 % by weight of a styrene-butadiene rubber, (B) 30 to 50 parts by weight of clay (C) at least 5 parts by weight of silica having a nitrogen absorption specific surface area of 100 to 300 m²/g and (D) 5 to 65 parts by weight of carbon black having a nitrogen absorption specific surface area of 70 to 300 m²/g, and having a total amount of (B) clay and (C) silica of 40 to 79 parts by weight and a total amount of (B) clay and, (C) silica and (D) carbon black of 41 to 80 parts by weight, wherein (B) clay has an average particle size of 0.5 to 10 μ m.

Claim 2 (CANCELLED)

3. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition for tire treads of claim 1, which includes (E) a silane-coupling agent.

4. (Previously Amended) A pneumatic tire, which has a tread made of the rubber composition of claim 1.

Claim 5 (CANCELLED)

6. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic tire, which has a tread made of the rubber composition of claim 3.

7. (New) The rubber composition of claim 1, wherein clay is present in an amount of 30 parts by weight, silica is present in an amount of 20 parts by weight and carbon black is present in an amount of 25 parts by weight.